

is fair, let us reduce the burden of the FICA tax, the Social Security tax. You could do that. You could actually do that and still safeguard Social Security. That would provide tax relief to 96 percent of wage-earning Americans in a bill I have proposed.

But guess what? It does not help out those people in the top 1 percent, those earning over \$350,000 a year who are paying almost 80 percent of the level of taxes that they paid 20 years ago. They need more tax relief. That is the bottom line in the Republican bill. It is delivering to the people who fund their campaigns, it is delivering to the people who run the corporations that fund their campaigns, and it is delivering, as the gentleman said, chump change to average Americans.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reject the Republican tax bill, I am certain the President will veto it, and let us get back to reality here in Washington, get back to our work, fund the veterans programs, fund the housing programs, set up fair priorities and give tax relief to average families who could use a tax break because they are not even keeping up with inflation.

#### CURIOUS, COARSE, CALLOUS POLITICAL CALCULATIONS AT THE OTHER END OF PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I think the preceding two speeches offer a classic contrast where we come as a free people to debate ideas because my friend from Oregon who precedes me is caught up in the politics of envy. Mr. Speaker, I would suggest that as Americans, Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, we would do well to set aside the politics of envy and embrace the policies of opportunity.

Mr. Speaker, as all of my colleagues had the opportunity on recess to spend time with their families, I also spent a good bit of time with my constituents in the Sixth Congressional District of Arizona, a district in square mileage almost the size of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and in 13 town halls held across the width and breadth of the Sixth District I found that constituents were consistently rejecting the politics of envy for the policies of opportunity as enunciated by our common-sense majority in the Congress as we pledged during this 106th Congress, number one, to save and secure Social Security and Medicare not only for today's seniors, but for tomorrow's, as we also move to save and strengthen and rebuild our national defenses and our national security, as we work to improve education by empowering leaders at the local level, locally elected school boards; but, more importantly, teachers in the classroom and parents in the home because we know that

teachers in the classroom and parents at home can deal far better with the educational challenges of their youngsters than any Washington, D.C. bureaucrats.

And finally what my good friend from Georgia mentioned, tax relief and tax fairness for all Americans. My friend from Oregon had one glaring omission in his diatribe against letting the American people hold onto more of their hard-earned money. He failed to cite the fact that the top 5 percent income earners in this country pay well over 60 percent of the taxes taken in by the Federal Government.

But be that as it may, tax relief for everyone is encapsulated and included in death penalty relief, easing the penalty of the death tax on the American people, reducing the marriage tax penalty, reducing capital gains taxes so that you are not punished for succeeding or investing wisely and offering to small business 100 percent deductibility for health care insurance instantly if the President will sign the bill even as we lock away over \$2 trillion to save Social Security and Medicare and pay down the national debt.

These are the opportunities that confront us, and, Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not mention one other topic that has come to the fore in town hall meetings and has been part of our electronic town hall in talk radio and in discussions on television, and that is the unbelievable actions of our Chief Executive to grant clemency to Puerto Rican terrorists. I am sure, Mr. Speaker, that Osama Bin Ladin and others who embrace terrorism are watching with great interest.

The power to pardon, to grant clemency is given to our Chief Executive by the Constitution. How curious that our President, having issued clemency only three times, would grant it in blanket fashion to over a dozen Puerto Rican terrorists who waged a campaign of terror for well over a decade if they would only promise to renounce violence.

Mr. Speaker, when will it end; the pilfering of 900 FBI files of political opponents, the curious and tragic actions at Waco, putting the Lincoln bedroom up for sale to the highest bidder in terms of political donations, and, Mr. Speaker, on the subject of campaign financing, donations from front companies for Communist China?

Mr. Speaker, it is shocking, and as the people of the Sixth District of Arizona told me last week, Alice may have said curiously and curiously when she stepped through the looking glass, but, Mr. Speaker, as we look to the other end of Pennsylvania Avenue for curious, coarse, callous political calculation and decisions that actually are not in the best interests of the American people and their children, all we can say, Mr. Speaker, is: Shame. If only those who bear the responsibility were capable of feeling the shame they ought at this hour in this moment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. CUMMINGS addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLUMENAUER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LEE addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### PATIENT PROTECTION LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. GANSKE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. GANSKE. Mr. Speaker, I welcome back all my colleagues from across the country, both sides of the aisle.

Congress has a lot of work to do in the last couple months of this year. Part of that work that many of us would like to see completed, at least in the House, and get to conference would be to pass a bill here in the House on patient protection legislation.

Now it is now September, Mr. Speaker, and the Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) had told us that in June that we would see a patient protection bill on the floor before the August recess. In fact, he personally told me that it is his, quote, intent to have managed care reform legislation on the floor in July before our August recess.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, it did not happen, so we went off to our August recesses, talked to our constituents, and the managed care industry continued their \$100 million advertising campaign against this legislation.

Now there are only 435 Members of this House, Mr. Speaker. If you divide that into a hundred million, that is an awful lot of money that a special interest group is using to try to defeat a common-sense piece of legislation. But the August recess gave them their